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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~enforcing the correction of~~ correcting computer hardware and software defects, the method comprising:

providing, by a supplier, a product having an embedded defect causing the product to artificially reject operation with a class of associated products for interacting therewith;

discovering the existence and artificiality of the embedded defect;

disclosing the existence and artificiality; and

repairing the product by enabling operation of the product with the class.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein disclosing further comprises publicly disclosing.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein disclosing further comprises privately disclosing.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein discovering is performed by at least one of an entity internal to the supplier, a consumer of the product, and an independent third party.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein disclosing is performed by at least one of an entity internal to the supplier, a consumer of the product, and an independent third party.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein repairing is performed by at least one of the supplier, a consumer of the product, and an independent third party.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a detector to detect the embedded defect.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising developing a solution by at least one of the supplier, a consumer of the product, and an independent third party, to cure the embedded defect.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising offering, by at least one of a consumer of the product, and an independent third party, a license to the solution.

10. (currently amended) A method for ~~enforcing the correction of~~ correcting computer hardware and software defects, the method comprising:

providing, by a supplier, a product having an embedded defect causing the product to artificially reject operation with a class of associated products for interacting therewith;

discovering the existence of the embedded defect;

disclosing the existence;

perceiving a delay in correction of the embedded defect in response to the disclosure;

providing motivation to the supplier; and

repairing, by the supplier, the product in response to the motivation by enabling operation of the product with the class.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein perceiving further comprises perceiving at least one of a refusal and inaction.

12. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein providing motivation further comprises taking steps directed toward obtaining a legal remedy against the supplier.

13. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein repairing further comprises infringing a protected solution of a third party.

14. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising providing, by at least one of the supplier, a consumer of the product, and an independent third party, a solution effective to cure the embedded defect.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising presenting, by at least one of the supplier, a consumer of the product, and an independent third party, the solution to parties affected by the embedded defect.

16. (withdrawn) A method for enforcing the correction of computer hardware and software defects, the method comprising:

selecting, by a supplier, objectives effective to achieve a selected business goal;

selecting, by the supplier, a synthetic stimulus technique to achieve the selected business goal, the synthetic stimulus technique artificially forcing obsolescence of at least one of computer hardware and computer software;

implementing the synthetic stimulus by embedding a synthetic defect in the at least one of computer hardware and computer;

disabling the synthetic stimulus by curing the embedded defect in response to at least one of a private disclosure and a public disclosure.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the selected business goal is selected from the group consisting of a goal to increase sales, increase profit, increase profit margin, increase new unit demand, increase upgrade demand, increase upgrade frequency, increase the price per unit, decrease development investment, and cripple competitors.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the synthetic stimulus technique is selected from the group consisting of implementing artificial locks in at least one of hardware and software, locking out selected versions of at least one of hardware and software, collaboratively working with a supplier of a complementary product to artificially force obsolescence of one another's products, redacting user manual information, and withholding computer instructions.

19. (withdrawn) A method for enforcing the correction of computer hardware and software defects, the method comprising:

identifying from a supplier, a product having an embedded defect causing the product to artificially reject operation with a class of associated products for interacting therewith;

discovering the existence of the embedded defect;

obtaining, by at least one of a consumer of the product and an independent third party, a solution effective to cure the embedded defect.

requesting that the supplier repair the product by enabling operation of the product with the class.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising entering into an agreement, with the supplier, to repair the product.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20, further comprising enforcing the terms of the agreement.